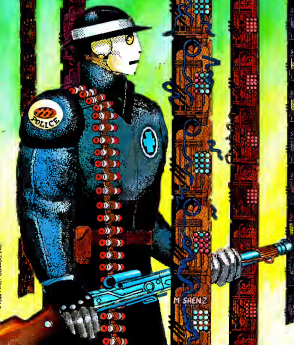


FIRST
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JUN. \$4.75
NO. 3
\$2.45 CANADA

SHATTER



SHATTER

46 FIRST COMICS 435 N. LA SALLE ST., CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60600

Dear Mike

I'm not accusing you of doing anything yet, but a lot of Shatter art looked like it wasn't quite done by computer. For instance, on page 19, frame 2, the background behind the small man printing doesn't look computerized. The curves in the walls are just too perfect, even for a computer. It looked like the same thing happened on page 29, frame 3. The line behind them is rounded so perfectly at the corners. I figure if you're going to do a comic on a computer, you ought to make it look like a computer drawing, not like a drawing done by hand.

As always, the art was great. Hopefully, the story will pick up and thicken in the future, more than it has already.

Christopher Romano
1478 Pasadena Drive
Palo Alto, CA 94302

Actually everything in Shatter prior to the coloring phase, is generated at Apple Macintosh MacPlus computer files and then printed on an Apple LaserWriter printer. If you need me \$10 for the cost of the disk and the labor, I'll send you a computer disk with just an issue of Shatter (an entire issue is too big for a single 400K disk) — just to prove the point.

The 'just too perfect' curves and smooth lines you see are the result of the LaserWriter's 'smoothing' function.

The LaserWriter contains its own computer which actually enhances the Macintosh images prior to printing them. Even the letter column was produced on the Mac, and then printed on the LaserWriter, using one of the typesetting fonts built into it.

As for the concept that a computerized comic should 'look like a computer drawing,' I guess we have a philosophical difference here. The computer is a tool, not a genie. Ideally, we will eventually produce comics via computer word and be indistinguishable from those done by mere 'conventional' means.

Dear Editor

You have broken new ground with Shatter. The implications of a comic produced on a computer could prove intriguing. For instance, the original art is now a delicate, scarce, and which are identical to it in every way. I would imagine this kind of comic has value of the original way down.

Martin Devon
67-48 173rd Street
Flushing, NY 11368

You're right, Martin. The term 'original' and 'breakout' is relatively meaningless in this context. I prefer to think of it as 'an infinite number of first generation copies.'

Dear Sam

Shatter is really a bold move on your part, and hopefully it will continue to sell well. The coloring is very, very good and really enhances the LaserWriter printing. Apple just let out giving you one was a good move for both parties, you get something for nothing that will enhance your art, and Apple gets free advertisement.

Genius Martin
1301 Lakewood Way #209
Atlanta, GA 30310



Well, you're *just* right anyway. Damn! We sure are giving Apple a lot of free promotion — are their technology and we don't need spending the usual \$1000 that we don't actually have for 'free' LaserWriter yet. The LaserWriter is apparently a much greater demand than Apple's working drawings to let all the orders. But we're sure we'll get out — eventually.

To the readers, I'll give a free plug to the guys who paid for their LaserWriters and have been helping us out over the past several months: Tom Welch and Terry Grant from Video Etc. in Danville, IL; Russ Porcell and the lovely Laura from Haskett-Kennedy Press in Chicago; and our very own electronic 'killer' Rob Donathel.

And while I'm at it, I should give credit to our new creative team writer Steven

Grant, essay Steve Grant and Rob Donathel, column Les Grossman, and the Wall Street Journal.

—Rick Oliver



NEXT ISSUE: The Allen Mathon battles it out with the combined forces of Simon, Schuster & Jovanovich and the Artists' Underground, and Shatter has his final confrontation with Qyer!

Rick Oliver, Publisher

Rick Oliver, Editor in Chief
Laurel Pflig, Editorial Coordinator
Alan Wald, Art Director
Rick Taylor, Production Manager

Rayne C. Muskrat

Financial Director

Kathy Balthus

Operations/Editorial Director

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Uhh...



You're AWAKE! Good. Lie still - you're in bad shape.

Argghh.

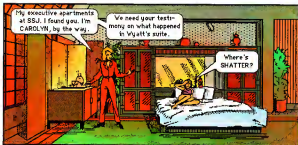
What happened?



You were caught in a SHOOT-OUT between Wyatt and his guards.

Between... hoh...

Where are we?









"My name is
SADR AL-DIN MORALES.
Some people call me...

SHATTER™

"I'd had the RNA of an
ARTIST pumped into me.
In theory, that makes
ME an artist.

"I'm also a TEMP —
odd jobs our specialty —
and I've been hired to
PAINT. I'm GOING
to paint...

"If I can ever figure out
how to hold a BRUSH.

SCRIPT: STEVEN GRANT
ART: STEVE ERWIN AND BOB DIENETHAL
COLOR: LES DORSCHIED
LETTERS/EDITS: RICK OLIVER











"Time to go."

"I needed a place to think, and UNRATH's offer was good."

"And he pays the OLD CASH."



"But the cash is MOCK - a cheap art job."

"And living at the RAVENSWOOD TANKS is beneath my STATION."



"They're all crazy here - lower than NO-WORKERS."

"And the only thing here CHEAPER than the art..."

FIRST NOTES

FIRST IN FEBRUARY

This month's something of a landmark for First as we suppose the magno number of eight for the first time, with a total of 10161 books covering your way in February. And you know what that means? Well, it means we're growing faster than kudzu, bigger than Godzilla, and larger than a sumo wrestler on steroids — but it also means more stuff in the "First in (fill-in-your-voice-month)" columns and less room for me to sturdily around searching for magazine's metaphors to fit up the column.

It also means I get fewer opportunities to reple, moult, and generally outrage the reading public — and otherwise stick my foot in my mouth. So I guess it's all for the better, although not nearly so much fun. Anyway, on to the -second- type, which is what they pay me for in the first place.

SECOND IN FEBRUARY

Whisper returns in a new bi-monthly series this month, written by creator Steven Grant and drawn by Bill Barnes. If you've been out side, you already know what Bill's art looks like. If you haven't, go buy some copies of last month's book and find out. The art's the same in all our titles, but try it all right just to make sure.

This is sort of a "double-second" because it's the second Whisper series (the first was published by Capital Publications) and the second First appearance for Whisper, having just completed a successful tour in First Adventures.

It is, however, issue #1 — because we couldn't guess out any other number to give it, and "one" is inevitably the first number that comes to mind.

February also marks the return of Shatter, the First-computerized comic

book. Shatter took a short vacation while we refined the revolutionary computer process and figured out how all the new electronic games worked. Actually, we still don't know how they work, but they do — as you can see if you bought a copy. If you didn't, go out right now and buy one. In fact, make it eight just to make sure.

We were going to call it "Shatter -- Phase 2!" but it's issue #2, and we didn't want to confuse the promotion department. Which is Joe.

FIRST IN MARCH

Next month we have a special second anniversary issue of Grimjack featuring Timothy Truman, Paul Smith, and no less a very strange issue of Nexus featuring the awesome Keith Giffen, and a new American Flagg! team, headed by Steven Grant and Mark Budge — plus everybody's favorite Plex-aid hologram, Bob Wilson!

FIRST IN APRIL

We have two new graphic novels coming out in April, but if I tell you about them now, I won't have anything to say next month.

FIRST IN JULY

Okay, so I'm jumping the gun a little. You'll just have to hear me. Besides, this is BIG news. In July, Broadstar jumps ship and joins the First team! Theirs' right, Jim Starlin is bringing his epic (and 87th) adventure story to First Comics, and our first issue will reveal the secret of the terror within the mind of Dreadstar and Company.

Carrying on our famous tradition of confusing numbers, the first First issue of Broadstar will be #27, on sale one month after issue #26!

— Rick Oliver

FIRST IN FEBRUARY

American Flagg! #33: This title is to "The First Time" by Howard Chaykin, Joe Station, and Hilary Barta.

Budger #12: "Blood on the Snow," by Mike Baron, Bill Reinhold, and Keith Wilson. Plus: Zentons by Mike Baron, Ron Wagner, and Gary Merile.

Synapse Joe #2: Chapter two of our three-part mini-series by Doug Niles, John Ostrander, Brian Thomas, and John Nyberg.

Erin Sellar on the Sea of Fate #7: The last installment of our last limited series adapting the sword-and-sorcery tales of Michael Moorcock. (Only loved for a new blog series in June.)

Grimjack #25: "Demon Blood, Part One," by John Ostrander, Tom Sutton, and Paul Gulken. Plus: Murder's Bar by Phil Foglio.

Joe Sable, Freelance #57: Sable has a deadly rendezvous in Africa. Story and art by Mike Grell.

Nexus #21: "The War for Ylum," by Mike Baron, Steve Rods, and John Nyberg. Plus: Tales from the Gloriverse by Mike Baron and Mark A. Nelson.

Shatter #2: The bounty hunter from the future enters a new phase...offspring of Steven Grant, Steve Brels, Bob Darnethal, Apple Macintosh, and Apple Laptop!er.

Whisper #1: "Gespark in the Year Zero," by Steven Grant, Bill Barnes, and Tim Buard.





"... is my LIFE."

Beats me why you droops
in the Artists' Underground
want Sadr's brain, Dante.

Let me explain it to
you one MORE time,
Urrath.

A method has been
discovered to process
human RNA into an
injectable SERUM.

Shooting up the RNA
of, say, an ARTIST
will give you the
artist's TALENTS.



Up to THIS point,
however, the effects
don't LAST.



But SADR'S injection
has NOT worn off. This
makes him VALUABLE.



Whoever maintains HIS
RNA also gains the
PERMANENCE factor.



It's all
SNAKE OIL,
man. SMOKE.

Sadr's got
NO talent.



PHILISTINE!

This is a FINE example of
CATATONIC EXPRESSIONISM.

Keep your CRITICISMS to yourself. I HIRED you to keep Sadr under wraps...

...NOT to demonstrate your IGNORANCE.

Changed my MIND, man.

You're NOT getting my man Shatter.

Our deal's OVER!

Maybe you don't even get out of here.

Don't come into MY place and call ME names!



WHOOPI

WHOOPI

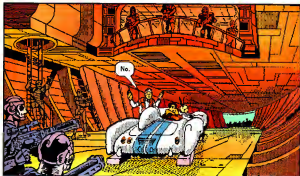


He's headed
for the ROOF!







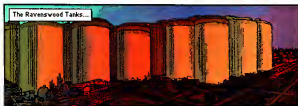


SSJ DROPPED
the charges.

By the way, I'm the
new CHAIRMAN of SSJ's
board of directors.

Where's SHATTER?













There aren't many ways
INTO the Tanks.

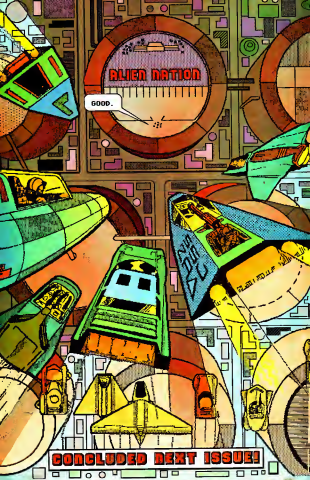


And maybe there's
no way OUT.









ALIEN NATION

GOOD.

CONCLUDED NEXT ISSUE!